

THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 59

EDITOR: CONNIE MASTERS

APRIL, 1995

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

AU REVOIR - BUT NOT GOODBYE!

"The time has come the walrus said" and my time as your Chair has come to an end. I have loved this two years working with all of you and helping to run our wonderful House. It is a big job that would be impossible to do without all the help from Peggy and the Executive, so to them:

Executive, so to them: Accolades for Avril Congratulations to Connie Flowers for Florence Hats off to Helvi Gratitude to J. Gray Merci to E. Martin Joy to June Bravo to D. Brown Excellence to Elvira Valentines for Virginia Joyeaux to Joan Muchos gracias to Marcia Rounds of applause for Ruth Laurels to Loraine Bouquets for Barbara Pats for B. Patterson Acknowledgments for Anna Marie Appreciation and Amen to Annie and Plaudits to Peggy.

Both my Grange Annual Meeting and Volunteer Committee Annual Meeting reports cover my feelings and recommendations and so there is no need to repeat. These will be added to the Sitting Room Reading which I instituted and feel helps keep the volunteers informed of what is going on in The Grange and the Gallery.

To incorporate PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURE in this report; This is the last time you will hear me say:

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

To sign in and out.

To sign up for the month.

To let someone know if you will not be in.

To read the Chalk Board.

To read the Notice Board.

To sign up for Training/Enrichment Events.

To clean up after yourselves in the Sitting Room and Kitchens.



Thank you for your response to the Grange Volunteer Questionnaire, the results of which follow. I hope they will be helpful in the efficient running of the Grange. The answers have given us a better idea of what you the Volunteer want and what you expect of your Executive Committee. The response to various areas and programmes where you will give your help is overwhelming. These programmes cannot be run without you; the best volunteers in the world.

I am sure you join with me in welcoming our new chairman, Flo Morson. She comes to us with experience in many areas of the Volunteer Committee, and is an authority on Goldwin Smith.

Love Elizabeth

A SPECIAL THANK YOU from Elizabeth:

To Florence Watts for the idea and to Kay Kirker for carrying it out; the repair of the back door hooked rug. Wonderful job! Also an ongoing thank you to the husbands of the volunteers, to Dick Watts for making the rug hooking frame now housed in the prep kitchen, to better explain how the rugs were made. A big thank you to Loraine Warren's husband for climbing the ladder to assist in the inventory of the Library. A wonderful job of storytelling and pinpricking by Elvira Putras' helpers during March Break, we really appreciated your efforts and so did the visitors. As Marcia Hawken leaves Kettledrum we wonder how she will be replaced in the organization and hours of preparation for the lecture desserts and our training suppers, and of course to all her helpers, especially the stalwart Thursday ladies.

Just in time for Spring our "volunteers in training" are all decked out in lovely new smocks, thanks to <u>Jean Gray</u>, who is retiring this year (her 77th) and can <u>never</u> be replaced.

New fruit in the Dining Room Epergne was kindly donated by <u>Florence Watts</u> and arranged by <u>Jane Carruthers</u>, one of the Housekeeping volunteers who will be under new guidance this year when <u>Virginia Smith</u> leaves after many many years as Housekeeping Chair and who oversaw that the tables, linens and dishes were always perfectly laid out for our gala dinners and receptions.

To <u>Erwin</u>, the <u>AGO carpenter</u>, for making our new trial information paddle in the best bedroom - it's beautiful.

To <u>Carl Benn</u>, of the Grange Council thanks for two things: for sending us a lighting expert to check out our "darkness" and for accompanying us on our upcoming annual trip.

To <u>Marilyn Litvak</u> and all the Council, <u>Jane Aitken and Kae Fogden of the Volunteer Committee</u>, <u>Peter Gale</u>, <u>Dennis Reid</u>, <u>Peggy</u>, thanks for <u>everything</u>. And to <u>Helvi Hunter</u>, (who will know what I'm talking about) for <u>all</u> her notes of encouragement.

New Faces at The Grange

A warm welcome to: Robert Steele - Tuesday

Emily McConnell - Wednesday Marie Baggott - Wednesday

Denis Michel - Wednesday Evening

Elise Alison - Friday Jennifer Roberts - Friday Janice Balesic - Sunday

We hope they will find their work in The Grange an interesting and rewarding experience.

OOPS!

We always hear that most accidents happen to us at home, and for Kay Kirker this was proved unfortunately too true. One misstep in her laundry room, and poor Kay was in the hospital with a broken hip. A pot of azaleas was sent from The Grange with our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

SAVED!

The local heritage community heaved a collective sigh of relief when it was announced that the Jackman Foundation, headed by our Lieutenant-Governor Hal Jackman, had purchased Sir John Beverley Robinson's papers that his descendants had offered for auction. The collection includes diaries,. letters and documents, many signed by historical figures such as King George IV, Queen Victoria, Isaac Brock and Florence Nightingale. If a single buyer had not been prepared to meet the opening bid, the collection would have been broken up into 100 separate lots, and important documents related to Toronto and Ontario history would have been lost. Jackman Foundation are donating the papers to the Ontario Archives, and deserve the thanks of everyone in Ontario with the slightest interest in preserving our past. As a matter of fact, one of our Grangers, Loraine Warren, wrote a personal letter to the Lieutenant Governor expressing her thanks for the Foundation's generosity. His reply can be seen on the notice board in the staff sitting room

GHOSTS OF THE GRANGE

Are we sharing the house with Others (apart from the resident ants, mice and moths)? With any house of the age of The Grange supernatural manifestations are not unusual. Does something forever remain of intense emotion experienced by those who have lived happily or unhappily within the walls? Many Grangers have heard the story (and some knew her) of the cleaner who was working alone in the house one day when it was closed to the public. As she was about to go up the staircase to the second floor she looked up, only to see the figure of a man standing at the top staring down at her. Needless to say, she dropped her utensils, and beat a hasty retreat back to the gallery, vowing never to work in The Grange again...and she didn't.

Another account of a ghostly appearance coming from Elayne Dobel, who was a Wednesday evening volunteer a few years ago. She is now Archivist and Records Manager at the Salvation Army's Heritage Centre. Elayne relates that one evening as she was in the drawing room closing the shutters, she became aware of a man in a yellow velvet waistcoat who walked across the room and through the wall where the door used to be, and disappeared.

Then there was the mysterious, unexplained, moving light once observed by two of our security guards... but that is a story for which the world is not yet ready.

OCCASIONAL NOTES ON ARTIFACTS IN THE GRANGE

Silhouettes of Maxwell Fitzgerald (son) and William Fitzgerald (father) N.wall, Morning Room, unknown man, W. wall, Drawing Room

An unpopular French finance minister of 1759, Etienne Silhouette, because of his petty economies, had his name associated by lampoonists with anything reduced to its smallest form, hence its association with the "shadow" portrait. Hitherto, the only methods of perpetuating one's physical likeness had been oil painting, portrait miniatures or sculpture, all of which were usually beyond the means of the average man. With a silhouette, the likeness was obtained by tracing the outline of a profile (the head or full figure) by means of a shadow, and filling in the whole In the most common method, carefully arranged outline in black. and diffused candle light threw the sitter's shadow upon a sheet of glass set vertically beside the chair; a sheet of oiled paper was fixed to the opposite side of the glass, and the artist, standing behind the glass, outlined the shadow on to the paper. Methods of reducing the image to scale were based on the principal of the pantograph, a mathematical copying instrument invested by Christoph Scheiner, a German astronomer.

Our silhouettes of the Fitzgeralds were created by their wives, according to a notation written on the backs of the portraits, and originated in Ireland. They were a gift to The Grange by Mr. & Mrs J.D. Fitzgerald of Toronto, at the time of the restoration. The creator of the unknown gentleman is also unknown. Purchased 1975.

For a few shillings, and certainly for no more than a few pounds, the sitter could have his or her features reproduced in profile, so it is not surprising that the silhouette quickly became popular. Eventually, it was superceded by the daguerreotype, the precursor of the modern photograph, in the mid-nineteenth century.

MATCHMAKING (NOT THE HUMAN VARIETY)

At The Grange we do not acknowledge the existence of matches as they were certainly not in general use in the early 1800's. Spills and the tinder box were what most people used, and hoped the fire would never go out.

The first practical match was invented by John Walker, a pharmacist in Stockton-on-Tees in England. He sold a box of 100 matches for a shilling, and threw in a piece of sandpaper for scratching. He never patented the idea, and two years later in London, Samuel James, recognizing the commercial potential of matches, put a product on the market that he called a "Lucifer" (the name presisted for nearly 100 years - remember the line from "Pack Up Your Troubles", the old World War I song - "While you've a Lucifer to light your fag.. "? They were not perfect by any means - you needed pliers to ignite them or your teeth. They were very unstable and smelly, and match boxes carried the warning, "If possible, avoid inhaling gas. Persons whose lungs are delicate should by no means use a Lucifer." Worse was to come. Charles Sauria of France made the first matches that were stable and easy to light. However, they contained white phosphorus - a highly toxic substance that made smoker's teeth fall out and caused matchmakers' to develop "phossy Jaw", a disease that made jawbones to crumble. There was enough white phosphorus in the heads of a single box of matches to kill anyone inhaling the fumes.

It was not until the late 19th century that non-poisonous "red" phosphorus matches were developed and the white were banned. Another problem of the white was also eliminated - the slightest friction would ignite them.

It was 1856 before matches were manufactured in Canada in Hull by Ezra Butler Eddy. They were safety matches which would not ignite unless they were struck on the side of the match box.

In spite of all the hazards that matches offered, smoking of all kinds of tobacco increased with the invention of matches. Now its the tobacco that we have to worry about.

HAPPY HOOKING!

Has it always been your long lost dream to be a happy hooker?

Well, now is your chance! The prep kitchen in The Grange will give you the opportunity. Make the room more interesting by trying your hand at hooking. It is easy and kids like to try. They are impressed that they are making a rug! We have three hooked rugs on the floors in the lower level.

The frame, with the beginnings of a rug, is leaning on the north wall beside the door to the servant's hall. The hooks (there are supposed to be three to choose from) are in the drawer in the table in the prep kitchen. The dark red strips of material to hook with are in the basket by the window.

The easiest method is to sit under the light by the bells and lean one end of the frame on the table and the other on your knee. If you find the burlap is too loose, pull up on the support strings, but try to keep it square. This is a very old method of making a rug and, of course, nothing was wasted.

For those who are interested in learning more, or wish to try your skills on contemporary designs and colours, please contact me at 656-1780. Friends of The Grange have given us other supplies for our use and for Daily Pursuits.

Please return the hooks to the drawer when you are finished. They are difficult to obtain.

Florence Watts.

WILLIAM HENRY REVISTED - By Avril Stringer, Grange Research

We all know (even though we try to keep it under our hats - under the carpet (?) whatever), that W.H. had a great deal of trouble with his personal finances. In fact, we are told he did a good job of spending Harriette's money.

What we don't realise, perhaps, is that he seems to have been a great deal more responsible, even conscientous, when it came to public monies.

For example, records show that when he was mayor of Toronto, he took only part of his salary because the City was short of money for public works.

In 1845, the Mayor's official salary was £250. per annum. In 1846, the Mayor's official salary was £300. per annum, and presumably the same in 1847 when W.H. refused all but £100.

W.H. was also far from irresponsible regarding his stewardship of funds of the Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto. On May 27, 1865, there appeared in the Toronto <u>Globe</u> a long, long letter from W.H. setting out what he believed to be the disposition of the fund.

Wm. Henry had been a member of the Church Society and had resigned due to what he felt was mismanagement of the funds and affairs. He claimed to have spent nearly two years trying to get a financial report showing the breakdown of the funds which originated with £25,000 of monies "commuted" from the stipends of the clergy themselves. The purpose of the fund was "The encouragement and support of missionaries" and for aiding poor clergymen and their families. Interest bearing debentures were issued from the fund to townships, companies and individuals.

W.H. publicly accused one of the trustees, J.H. Cameron, of using the fund for his own purposes, and states the second trustee, Thomas G. Ridout, resigned as a result of Mr. Cameron's actions.

The cynics amongst us may attribute all W.H.'s motives to political compaigning for various personal advantages. This may be so but these efforts must have had an impact on public consciousness and awareness at the time. Certainly the letter appearing in the Globe shows him to have had considerable financial accumen, and meticulous attention to detail.

Your editor, who has a not-so-secret fondness for William Henry (he looks such a dashing devil in his portrait), would like to add to Avril's account this excerpt from an article in the Toronto Globe at the time of his unexplained death (just what is "general debility?) in 1874:

"The public self was strangely at variance with his habitual frame of mind, for at home and in private life, a gentler or more amiable gentleman was seldom seen. Thoughtless and inconsiderate as to personal consequences, he never tried to involve those most intimately connected with him in the quarrels in which he was engaged....He was in his 62nd year, and a quarter of a century ago there was no more popular man in his native city than William Henry Boulton."

I think of William Henry as a Regency rake, born a little too late for the rather staid sanctimonious Victorian city that Toronto was becoming. This criticism thundered from a local Toronto newspaper of a particularly puritanical bent: ...this gambler and horseracer, the frequenter and encourager of the theatre and its concomitants!" Sounds like rather a fun guy to me.

WHO IS THAT LADY IN THE DRAWING ROOM?

The lady in the portrait that hangs above the fortepiano is Eliza Jones, who was married to Henry John Boulton, brother of our D'Arcy Boulton, Jr. Joan Watson, The Grange's flower lady, whose grandmother was a Jones, has contributed some information about Eliza and her relatives to the Newsletter.

Eliza Jones Boulton was born 1797. The daughter of Ephraim Jones of Augusta, near Prescott, Upper Canada, born 1750, and Charlotte Coursol of Vercheres, near Montreal, born 1755. Eliza was the last of 12 children, 4 of whom died in infancy. She was married to Henry John Boulton, 29 April, 1818, and died at the age of 71, on 21 May, 1868. Eliza's sister, Charlotte, born 1786, died just 2 months short of her 90th birthday (a grand old age in those days). It is of particular interest that another sister, Sophia, born 1785, and married to John Stuart, had two daughters. Mary married Allan MacNab of Dundurn Castle, Hamilton, in 1831, and her older sister Sophia married David Archibald MacNab, the two brothers married two sisters, both nieces of Eliza in our portrait.

The Jones family did have a penchant for odd first names for their children. Here are a few that Joan has come across.

Eliza's brother Charles' second wife was Florella, and they named one son Okill and another Ormond. Also Israel married Philona, the daughter of Obed Foot. In fact Joan's great grandmother was Sophia Maria and her grandmother Anastasia.

THINGS TO DO

A must for all Grangers - the annual expedition to an historic site takes place on Tuesday, May 16. This year we are off to the Niagara frontier and sites associated with the struggle for the border, including Fort George at Niagara-on-the-Lake. And who better to guide us than Carl Benn, Curator of Military and Naval History for the Toronto Historical Board.

Walks and talks with the Toronto Historical Board. One of the greatest freebies in Toronto. Throughout May, June, July, August and September, the T.H.B. is offering a free walking tour of Toronto's historic sites every Sunday afternoon, and every Thursday at noon at the T.H.B.'s Heritage Resource Centre, 205 Yonge Street, just north of Queen, there will be an hour-long illustrated talk on some aspect of our city's history. Highly recommended. Complete details available from the T.H.B.

Is there anyone on a well-staffed day who could switch to Tuesday from time to time? This would be much appreciated by day captain Jane Heinemann.

Don't forget the Annual General Meeting of the Volunteer Committee, and lunch on Monday, May 29, 1995, at 11:00 am.

GRANGE VOLUNTEER QUESTIONNAIRE

TRAINING SUPPER/SESSIONS:

Which do you prefer - supper
Would like to attend offsite venues———————————————————————————————————
Or to be charged if you do not attend———————————————————————————————————
OTHER: Would you be willing to be a Day Captain6 Or an Assistant when the Day Captain is away

Would you serve on In what capacity:			16	
In what capacity:				
	Education	_	Finance	
			Housekeeping_	
	Kettledrum_		Library	
	Publications		Research	10
	Slide Library	3	Special Event	.s4
	Staffing	2	Provisions	
	Volunteer Enric	hment3		
Daily Pursuit Be available for e 12 Be a part-time vol Be on call when ne How would you feel of some volunteers	extra shifts or head sunteer 14 eeded 10	rnative opt	ion	

Training Subjects

1.

Historical Information Dining room/china Prefer to have training on different days Related to the period Social History 19th c. AGO collection Decorative Arts Ceramics in Grange, etc., (see C. Masters) Knowledge of other locations History of The Grange Structural changes in house and restoration Annual trips Life in Toronto at the time of house Grange history and art Immigration Public Health & Safety Law and Judicial system A day in the life of..... Rural Ont. Church, religion, charities Historic sites downtown Fire drills Bata Goldwin Smith Period Art AGO collection Costume talk (show & Tell) More info on being an historic interpreter Pioneer ladies City halls (old and new) Parliament Bldgs. Hamilton Art Gallery Black Creek Boulton Family & descendants Slide show of old Grange photos Canadian Art 19th c. Maids & Servants Osgoode Allen Gardens Repeats P. Crawford - gardening Grange furniture, food, parties & daily life in Grange Tour of area Prominent visitors to Boultons/Robinsons House, people & times re-do food, clothing Behind the scenes (conservation)

Dundurn Victoria Hall - Cobourg Elora Mill Campbell House Gibson House other houses (focus on structure & restoration) Redpath Colborne Lodge St. James Cathedral Niagara-on-the-Lake Mackenzie House Spadina (while open) Maclean House Casa Loma (and gardens) Fort York Toronto First Post Office Other old homes Osgoode Porcelain & silver Montgomery's Inn Gardiner Museum Walking Tour of Old York Unionville and other rural Whitehearn.

3

Improve Placement

More rotation
video on restoration
Improve our visibility
Volunteers to take out books
More Sunday volunteers
Younger volunteers
Use of students for summer
Research time in library
evening training too early
teach touring of house
work every other week.

4

Other Suggestions

We have a pleasant atmosphere
more slide lectures
Sharing other volunteers knowledge
love to work in kitchen
have enough vols. so others come in less
Trips to theatres
exchange days
more advertising on CFMX FM radio
No enrichment during the day
enrichment not on same day as executive meeting
no drawing outside in atrium, when house is open
Poster or large sign in Weston Hall
More promotional ads.
Bring brown bag lunch for training.

GRANGE VOLUNTEER QUESTIONNAIRE

TRAINING SUPPER/SESSIONS:
Which do you prefer - supper
day sessions
Saturday
a bit of both
time:
Subject matter for above:
Would like to attend offsite venues
Any suggestions?
To eliminate "no shows" would you be willing to pay in advance for suppers
Or to be charged if you do not attend
Would you like to help Kettledrum for Training suppers
Or Lunch Lectures (tea and talk)
OTHER:
Would you be willing to be a Day Captain

Or an Assistant when the Day Captain is away---

DESCRIPTION OF PERSONS ASSESSED.

Would you serve on the Executive				
In what capacity:	Communications	Costumes		
	Education	Finance		
	Flowers	Housekeeping		
	Kettledrum	Library		
	Publications	Research		
	Slide Library	Special Events		
	Staffing	Provisions		
	Volunteer Enrichment_			
Would you like to participate in: Tours Daily Pursuits Be available for extra shifts or holidays (list time or days) Be a part-time volunteer Be on call when needed How would you feel about the alternative option of some volunteers not wearing costume Are you happy in your Placement				